

Amended claims

1. (Original) A system enabling a user of an application object, comprising an executable portion of an executable application, to access documents external to said application, comprising:

a map associating a set of access links with

(a) an application object identifier; and

(b) an organization identifier identifying an organization,

said set of access links supporting access to documents external to said application;

a link processor for initiating provision of data, the data representing a set of access links, to a user in response to a received organization identifier and a received application object identifier; and

a command processor for initiating access to an external document using a link in said set of access links in response to user command.

2. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said set of access links supports access to documents from a plurality of different sources external to said application.

said map associates said set of access links with a role identifier, the role identifier identifying a particular user performable role; and

said link processor automatically initiates provision of data representing said a role specific set of access links to a user in response to a received role identifier.

3. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said map associates a plurality of sets of access links with

(a) a plurality of application object identifiers, the object identifiers identifying a corresponding plurality of application objects, and

(b) a plurality of organization identifiers, the organization identifiers identifying a corresponding plurality of organizations; and
said link processor selects a set of access links from said plurality of sets of access links in response to a received organization identifier and a received application object identifier, the link processor initiating provision of data representing said selected set of access links to a user.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 3, wherein said map associates said plurality of sets of access links with a plurality of role identifiers identifying a corresponding plurality of roles performed by a user; and said link processor selects a set of access links from said plurality of sets of access links in response to a received role identifier, the link processor initiating provision of data representing said selected set of access links to a user.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said map comprises at least one of (a) a plurality of maps, (b) a data repository, (c) a database, (d) a plurality of databases, and (e) a plurality of data repositories.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein an access link comprises at least one of (i) a universal resource locator, (ii) an internet protocol address, (iii) a storage file directory address, (iv) a storage file address, (v) a communication port address, (vi) a server address and (vii) an address for use in locating a document; and a document comprises at least one of (a) a web page, (b) an HTML file, (c) a Word document, (d) an SGML document, (e) an XML document, (f) a multimedia file, (g) an Excel file, (h) a Portable Document Format file, (i) an executable file, (j) a text file and (k) an accessible file.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said link processor initiates provision of data representing a menu window for displaying said set of access links to a user.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 7, wherein said link processor determines an order of display of said access links in said menu window based on at least one of (a) a determined relative importance of individual access links of said set of access links to a role performable by a user, (b) a determined relative importance of access links in said set of access links, (c) alphabetical order, (d) a determined relative importance of access links of said set of access links to an organization and (e) another determined logical order.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said command processor initiates access to said external document using a link in said set of access links, the access to the external document being initiated from within said executable application object.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 9, wherein said command processor initiates access to said external document using a link in said set of access links concurrently with operation of said executable application object.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said application comprises a laboratory information system and said external document comprises information concerning at least one of (a) test procedures, (b) chemistry procedures, (c) microbiology procedures, (d) hematology procedures (e) phlebotomy procedures, (f) instrument support, (g) an electronic patient medical record, (h) orders to perform patient procedures, (i) laboratory test results and (j) a patient visit.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein an access link supports access to a second and different executable application; and said command processor initiates access to said second application.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said organization identifier comprises a location identifier.

14. (Currently Amended) A system enabling a user of an application object, comprising an executable portion of an executable application, to access documents external to said application, comprising:

a map associating a set of access links with

(a) an application object identifier and

(b) a role identifier identifying a particular user performable role,

said set of access links supporting access by an application to ~~external~~ documents external to said application;

a link processor for initiating providing data representing a set of access links to a user in response to a received role identifier and a received application object identifier; and

a command processor for initiating access to an external document using a link in said set of access links in response to user command.

15. (Original) A system enabling a user of an application object, comprising an executable portion of an executable application, to access documents external to said application, comprising:

an authorization processor for determining whether a user is authorized to access a particular application object of a plurality of objects within an application in response to a received user identification information and a received application object identifier;

a map associating a plurality of sets of access links with a plurality of application object identifiers identifying a corresponding plurality of application objects, said access links supporting access to external documents; and

a link processor for employing, in response to successful user authorization, said map in selecting a set of access links from said plurality of sets in response to said received application object identifier and for initiating providing data representing said selected set of access links to a user.

16. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein
said map associates said plurality of sets of access links with at least one of (a) a role identifier identifying a user performable role and (b) an organization identifier identifying an organization.

17. (Original) A system according to claim 16, wherein said link processor selects said set of access links from said plurality of sets in response to at least one of (a) a received role identifier identifying a user performable role and (b) a received organization identifier identifying an organization.

18. (Original) A system according to claim 15, including a command processor for initiating access to an external document using a link in said set of selected access links, the command processor initiating access from within an executable application object.

19. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein
said plurality of sets of access links include prioritized sets of access links;
and
said link processor selects a single set of access links from said plurality of sets based on set priority.

20. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein said authorization processor determines whether a user is authorized to access an external document in response to received user identification documentation, the system further comprising a command processor for inhibiting access to an external document using a link in said set of selected access links in response to a denial of user authorization.

21. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein said authorization processor determines whether a user is authorized to access an external document using a link in said selected set of access links in response to received user identification information; and said link processor inhibits providing data representing an access link to a user in response to a denial of user authorization to access said external document generated by said authorization processor.

22. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein said authorization processor maintains an audit trail identifying access to external documents by storing records identifying at least one of (a) a document accessed, (b) a time and date of access, (c) an entity accessing a document and (d) a source of an access request.

23. (Original) A method for enabling a user of an application object, comprising an executable portion of an executable application, to access documents external to said application, comprising the steps of:
associating a set of access links with
(a) an application object identifier and
(b) an organization identifier identifying an organization,
said set of access links supporting access to external documents;
initiating providing data representing a set of access links to a user in response to a received organization identifier and a received application object identifier; and
initiating access to an external document using a link in said set of access links in response to a user command.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling a user of an application object, comprising an executable portion of an executable application, to access documents external to said application, comprising the steps of:

associating a set of access links with

(a) an application object identifier and

(b) a role identifier identifying a particular user performable role,

said set of access links supporting access by an application to external documents external to said application;

initiating providing data representing a set of access links to a user in response to a received role identifier and a received application object identifier; and

initiating access to an external document using a link in said set of access links in response to a user command.

25. (Original) A method of enabling a user of an application object, comprising an executable portion of an executable application, to access documents external to said application, comprising the steps of:

determining whether the user is authorized to access a particular application object of a plurality of objects within an application in response to received user identification information and a received application object identifier;

associating a plurality of sets of access links with a plurality of application object identifiers identifying a corresponding plurality of application objects, said access links supporting access to external documents; and

in response to user authorization, selecting a set of access links from said plurality of sets of access links in response to said received application object identifier and initiating providing data representing said selected set of access links to the user.